

# Weird & Wonderful PLACES TO STAY

## Chena Huts by Uga Escapes

Yala, Sri Lanka

**WHAT** Nestled on the boundary of Yala National Park, surrounded by jungle trees and a dune beach fed by the Indian Ocean Chena Huts is not your average safari sleep-out. The 14 palm-thatched private cabins embrace the surrounding wilderness landscape of the seven-acre property, each designed to harmonise with the jungle environment. The climate-controlled spaces include a living area, bedroom, en suite with free-standing bathtubs, TV and mini-bar, while outside, a shaded deck leads to a five-metre plunge pool. Interiors have been carefully crafted with African-style log furniture and rustic motifs to further play on the resort's safari theme. Each of the cabins are elevated and connected by a boardwalk, ensuring privacy from other guests as well as the local wildlife this area is renowned for. Don't be surprised to see wild boars, buffalos, elephants, leopards and sloth bears pacing below.

**WHY** A luxurious way to immerse yourself into the wild.

**HOW** Huts from AU\$822 per night.

[ugaescapes.com](http://ugaescapes.com)



## Shinta Mani Wild

Siem Reap, Cambodia

**WHAT** Arriving to the newly opened Shinta Mani Wild (opening 1 November) via a 380m zip line is just the beginning. This Cambodian accommodation combines world-class design, hospitality and conservation to create a luxurious private sanctuary situated between three Cambodian national parks – Kirirom, Boko and Cardamom. Each of the tents protrude over the river and overlooking waterfalls to create a truly unique jungle experience. A bar and restaurant serve locally inspired food, while a spa offers services to help you unwind. The sanctuary works with various organisations to protect the 865 acres of from poaching, mining and logging.

**WHY** travel in luxury, with a purpose.

**HOW** Rates start at about AU\$2560 per night (includes food, drinks, activities, spa treatments and some transfers).

[shintamani.com](http://shintamani.com)

## Glamping in Lofoten Islands

Lofoten Islands, Norway

**WHAT** Staying in tents on Norway's spectacular Lofoten Islands doesn't necessarily mean roughing it. Wake up to the archipelago's famous fjords right at your tent's doorstep, in one of these traditional Sami tents designed by Off the Map Travel. The two-night, three-day glamping experience will introduce you to the local wildlife, while you immerse yourself in this picturesque landscape of fjords, mountains and lush green valleys. Your days will be filled with cruises, visits to local farms, hikes and kayaking experiences, while you play I-Spy with the white-tailed sea eagles, porpoises and whales under the midnight sun. This pre-packaged experience also includes a wilderness catch-and-cook cooking class.

**WHY** Living the Scandinavian island dream.

**HOW** AU\$997 per adult (includes three days of activities and two nights accommodation).

[offthemap.travel](http://offthemap.travel)

## Hotel Santo Tomas

San José, Costa Rica

**WHAT** Hidden behind an unsuspecting façade in the heart of San Jose's oldest historical district, Barrio Amon, this turn-of-the-century French Victorian mansion houses an affordable and stylish hotel. Cues to its coffee-plantation history are scattered throughout with dazzling handmade tile floors, high ceilings and Victorian-styled furnishings. Each morning you'll enjoy your free freshly-cooked breakfast in the restaurant, which overlooks the swimming pool and Jacuzzi, both connected via a slide, and the adjacent gym. Plus, the hotel also includes real estate and civil marriage legal services and a brand-new wellness centre, offering anti-ageing, dental, IV vitamin bar, osteopathy and massages.

**WHY** Everything in one place.

**HOW** Rooms from AU\$70 per night. Includes parking, WiFi and breakfast.

[hotelsantotomas.com](http://hotelsantotomas.com)